

# CONGRESSIONAL HABIT IS VERY EASILY ACQUIRED

Once Elected Most of Them Seek to Come Back.

## SENIORITY BIG POWER

Single States Have Dominated the Whole Country Through It.

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(Special Dispatch to The West Virginian.)

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Approaches now the season when the uppermost thought in the mind of 435 members of the national House of Representatives and one-third of the membership of the Senate is the question of renomination and reelection. Some of them need concern themselves only with securing the nomination, again the "Solid South" and in certain republican and democratic strongholds in other states, where the vote is overwhelmingly one way. In such instances, however, the contest for the nomination, carrying with it as it does the equivalent of sure election, is usually so spirited as to give the aspirant for office all the fight he wants and in reality as much as the other fellow experiences who has to struggle for both the nomination and election.

Experience has shown that it is the propensity of men serving one term in the Senate and House to seek reelection. This is a readily understood and natural desire. They want to be endorsed, to be vindicated, to lose renomination carries with it a sense of having been "turned down" by one's constituency and no man likes that. So, even in instances of men being disillusioned with Congress, finding it after practical experience unsuitable to their tastes, and unremunerative to many of them, they seek another term for their own personal satisfaction.

Then, experience has shown, after awhile many of them get the "Congressional habit." They stay or because their constituents want them to stay and because they become habituated to the work and like it. Others stick to it because they find they have stayed so long they can not easily fall into other lines of endeavor or usefulness. There have been many pathetic instances of the latter kind where men remained in Congress doing the work of their country well and saving for their constituents, only to some day awaken to the fact that they have advanced in years; that they have lost touch with their law practice, or their business; that a new generation of voters have come along with whom they are not acquainted and then up bobs some ambitious young fellow who thinks he would "like to try at the Congress job" and, so, out goes the veteran.

But many states have learned to profit by the practice of keeping their able men in Congress. This was the case more especially before the primaries came into vogue. It was found and it is still true, that by keeping their tried and competent men in Congress, they attained position by seniority of service where they were of great benefit to their states and their districts.

It is recalled that at one time, through following this custom, the State of Maine actually dominated both the House and the Senate of the United States. Thomas H. Reed was Speaker of the House, and that was the time when prominently the speakership controlled the Maine had Dingley as chairman of Ways and Means committee, to write the tariff bill; Boutwell was chairman of Naval Affairs to build up the navy; Milliken was chairman of Public Buildings and Grounds, to appropriate for public buildings.

In the Senate, Senator Frye was president pro tem; Hale was chairman of Naval Affairs and one of the masterful leaders and both senators had places on every commanding committee.

Iowa was another state which followed the seniority rule to advantage. Iowa had representation on every important committee in both branches of Congress. Senator Allison, chairman of Appropriations, was the most influential man in the Senate. They had been kept in office by their constituents until they had worked up to their positions of power.

The solid South furnished the north a striking example of the value of keeping competent men in Congress when the democratic party came back into power with President Wilson. They had been out of power in the House and Senate as a party a long time, except that during the interval the southern states had continued sending the same men, practically, back to Congress. Too be sure, they were in the minority on committees, but, which turned out to be highly important, while the northern states had been displacing their democratic representatives and senators, the southern states had held theirs on so that when the wheel revolved and the minority became the majority, lo behold, the southern states were represented at the head of all the important committees by the more rule seniority.

So, it came about that "the south was in the saddle" indeed, and although the northern states, which had aimed to turn the republicans out and take it possible for the democratic party to control the House and Senate, clamored for a "fair divide" of committee honors, it was not to be the men who had been in Congress long time claimed their rights and

## THE GREAT AMERICAN HOME!



ON THE OUTS WITH HIS BEST FRIEND—

the South organized the House and Senate.

In recent years the House has been to a notable degree the training ground for the Senate. Occasionally a man goes to the Senate directly from the people, without previous public service of note, but only at rare intervals. Most of the senatorships have been reached through the governorship or through the House.

In one notable instance recently, a man has preferred to remain in the House rather than follow what is generally deemed the rule of promotion to the Senate. Champ Clark, of Missouri, being twice offered the senatorship, once by appointment to fill a vacancy and latterly the opportunity to have the nomination practically secured him declined in both instances. He said he has "acquired the House habit" and did not like to make a change.

A number of Senators have served in the House and one has followed the old fashioned routine of going from the House to the governorship, then to the Senate. He is Stanley of Kentucky. His colleague, Beckham, skipped the House and came from the governorship to the Senate. Senator Chamberlain of Oregon was once governor; Senator Harding of Ohio was Lieutenant Governor; Senator Johnson was Governor of California; Senator La Follette of Wisconsin was governor; Hoke Smith of Georgia was governor; Senator Swanson of Virginia was governor; Senator Thomas of Colorado was governor, and so was Senator Walsh of Mass. Nearly a score of Senators have served in the House before coming to the Senate.

One senatorial nomination has been going a-begging for several weeks, the democratic nomination in Indiana. Former Senator Taggart refused it, and the state committee offered it to three other prominent Indiana democrats, each in turn declining and finally Mr. Taggart has reconsidered and will be given the nomination by the committee. This is an unusual occurrence, and senators who have to fight for nomination are envying Mr. Taggart.

## Busy Season For the Local Florists

Local florists are preparing to do a mammoth business this Easter and are already handling quantities of flowers and taking scores of orders. While flowers are high this year in comparison with other high prices are not exorbitant and the florists already received are of superb quality.

Webers today received from their green house at Oakland, Md., a whole car load of blooming potted plants and their store rooms are full to overflowing with stock. The Hauge flower and plant house is also preparing to meet heavy trade and have anticipated such by ordering quantities of flowers in addition to the large number of flowers grown in their own green house at their place of business on a busy avenue.

## Broke Up Card Game On R. R. Property

Just a little game of draw was what it appeared to the spectators but to the company detectives it was a flagrant violation of the law, not only of the land but of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad as well. So the game was broken up and the four men taken to the court house, given a severe slap on the wrist and released with a warning.

It all happened after a train crew had come in from a long run last night at about ten o'clock and were having a little relaxation after supper.

No damage was done, the majesty of the law was upheld and today everybody concerned is in a good humor as of yore.

## K.O.F.C. MINSTREL DATES ARE FIXED

Big Performance Will be Given at the Grand April 14 and 15.

Final dates have been set for the K. of C. Minstrels which are to be held Wednesday and Thursday, April 14th and 15th at the Grand Opera House.

Ed Hayes having just arrived in the city from New York will begin preparations staging the big after-piece. This act was written by Happy Benway, and is one of Happy's best, riotously laughing minstrel acts. Mr. Benway was formerly connected with George Evans (now deceased) "Honey Boy Minstrels."

A big rehearsal will be held this evening and many local well-reputed artists are to appear in this production, among whom are Jack Andrews, the "Chesterfield of Minstrelsy," Cam Flaherty, whose work classes him as a second Al Jolson, and Jimmy Anwyll and Charles Smith also exponents of fun in cork. For vocalists, there are Frank Jordan, Fairmont's sweet tenor, also Messrs Smal, Speck and Dr. Carter Fleming, who can warble with the best of them, not forgetting the "Coal City Quartette" which will occupy a stellar position on the bill.

Advance tickets can be procured by the general public from members of the organization beginning Thursday.

## EVANGELIST TALKS ON SKEPTICISM

Tonight the Women Will Have Picnic Supper at First M. E. Church.

Evangelist LaMance at the First M. E. church preached on skepticism last night and gave the atheist, the deist and the fatalist some severe criticism. He said the atheist said there was no God when everything in the Bible asserted otherwise as did everything in nature. The deist believes in a God, but he believes that after creating everything there the matter ends and when human beings die there is nothing thereafter. The fatalist says whatever is to be, will be, no matter what one does. The evangelist said all these theories are wrong but that the fatalist came a little nearer real religion than the other two.

Tonight all the women in the three churches will meet at 6:15 for a supper and enjoyable time. The Baptist, the M. E. south and the First Methodist Episcopal ladies will be present as well as others including guests of these women. Any woman may come and bring a basket with supper for herself and friend.

Tomorrow is children's night at the 7:30 service when the little folks will sing in the choir. Friday night a dinner for men for 40 cents will be served and all men are invited. This dinner is at 6:45. Mrs. LaMance creates much interest and enthusiasm in her nightly song service beginning promptly at 7:30.

## Lower Prices

—you will find here that we always give you the Highest Quality in Meats, Butter, Eggs, Cheese, Tea, Coffee and other good things to eat. But our PRICES ARE LOWER

CHICAGO DAIRY and Sanitary Market, 309 Madison St.

## SPECIAL NOTICE PROCLAMATION AND NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR SCHOOL BOND ISSUE AND LEVY.

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF FAIRMONT DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF MARION AND STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA: TAKE NOTICE:

THAT at a legal meeting of the Board of Education of the District of Fairmont, in the county of Marion and state of West Virginia, held on the 27th day of March, 1920, the following order was adopted and entered of record, namely:

It appearing to this, The Board of Education, of the District of Fairmont, in the county of Marion and state of West Virginia, that to accommodate the youth of school age residing in said district it is necessary to issue bonds in the sum of Ninety-eight Thousand Dollars (\$98,000.00), as provided by chapters 2 and 126 of the Acts of the Legislature, of 1919, in order to procure money for the following purposes, that is to say:

1. To erect, complete, enlarge and furnish a school building in the town or village of Barrackville, in said Fairmont district, on the school site recently purchased from Louise Conaway.

2. To purchase a school site near the present Jayenne school in said Fairmont district, and to erect, complete, enlarge and furnish a school building thereon.

And it having been determined that this proposed bonded indebtedness, together with the existing indebtedness, does not exceed two and one-half (2½) per centum of the value of the taxable property in the said district as ascertained by the last assessment for state and county taxes:

Therefore, in pursuance of the foregoing and said chapters 2 and 126 of said Acts of the Legislature of 1919, it is hereby resolved and ordered that this, The Board of Education of the District of Fairmont, in the county of Marion, do borrow money in the sum of Ninety-eight Thousand Dollars (\$98,000.00), and issue and sell bonds to raise said amount of money for the purposes aforesaid, namely:

1. To erect, complete, enlarge and furnish a school building in the town or village of Barrackville, in said Fairmont district, on the school site recently purchased from Louise Conaway.

2. To purchase a school site near the present Jayenne school in said Fairmont district, and to erect, complete, enlarge and furnish a school building thereon.

And to provide more definitely con-

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